Security Council

Fifty-third Year

Provisional

3887th Meeting

Thursday, 28 May 1998, 11.55 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Godana	(Kenya)
Members:	Bahrain	Mr. Al-Dosari
	Brazil	Mr. Felicio
	China	Mr. Qin Huasun
	Costa Rica	Mr. Niehaus
	France	Mr. Teixeira da Silva
	Gabon	Mr. Dangue-Réwaka
	Gambia	Mr. Jagne
	Japan	Mr. Owada
	Portugal	Mr. Monteiro
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	Slovenia	Mr. Türk
	Sweden	Mr. Dahlgren
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mr. Richardson

Agenda

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/1998/375 and Add.1)

98-85376 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.55 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Georgia

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/1998/375 and Add.1)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, documents S/1998/375 and Addendum 1.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/1998/329, which contains the text of a letter dated 14 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, and documents S/1998/423 and S/1998/432, containing letters dated 22 May 1998 and 26 May 1998, respectively, from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council; and to document S/1998/372, which contains the text of a letter dated 5 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, of 11 May 1998 (S/1998/375 and Add.1).

"The Security Council is gravely concerned by the recent outbreak of violence in the zone of conflict, which has resulted in the loss of human life and a significant outflow of refugees, and calls upon the parties to observe strictly the Moscow Agreement of 14 May 1994 on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (S/1994/583, annex I) (the Moscow Agreement) and also the ceasefire protocol signed on 25 May 1998, as well as all their obligations to refrain from the use of force and to resolve disputed issues by peaceful means only.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned by the recent slowing of the peace process. The Council calls upon the parties to display the necessary political will to achieve substantial results on the key issues of the negotiations within the framework of the United Nations-led peace process and through direct dialogue, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia.

"The Security Council reaffirms the right of all refugees and displaced persons affected by the conflict to return to their homes in secure conditions, calls upon both sides to fulfil their obligations in this regard, and welcomes in this context the efforts undertaken by the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as set out in document S/1998/372, in support of the return of refugees and of a comprehensive political settlement.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned that the deteriorating security situation in the Gali region gravely impedes the work of aid workers, personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Council calls upon the parties to honour fully their commitments to take all measures in their power to improve the security situation, including the creation of a joint mechanism for investigation and prevention of acts that represent violations of the Moscow Agreement and terrorist acts in the zone of conflict.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to consult both sides on the basis of paragraphs 26, 48 and 49 of his report, in particular on the concept of the self-protection unit outlined therein, and on other options as appropriate, in close cooperation with the group of Friends of the Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need to secure the consent of both parties to the Secretary-General's proposal. The Council also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the outcome of those consultations as soon as possible and no later than 12 June 1998."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1998/16.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at noon.